

i) a branched siloxane prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

a) mixing a compound having the general formula $(SiO_{4/2})(R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2})_4$ with a cyclic polydiorganosiloxane, and/or a substantially linear hydroxy terminated polydiorganosiloxane wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the R^a substituent in at least part of the compound being selected from alkenyl and alkynyl, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group;

b) causing the mixture to react in the presence of an acid or phosphazene base catalyst at a temperature of up to $180^\circ C$; and

c) neutralising the reaction mixture;

ii) an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent in an amount such that the ratio of the total number of Si-H groups in the composition to aliphatically unsaturated hydrocarbon groups in the composition is from 0.9:1 to 3:1;

iii) a sufficient amount of a hydrosilylation catalyst effective to catalyse the reaction between the branched siloxane and the cross-linking agent; and optionally

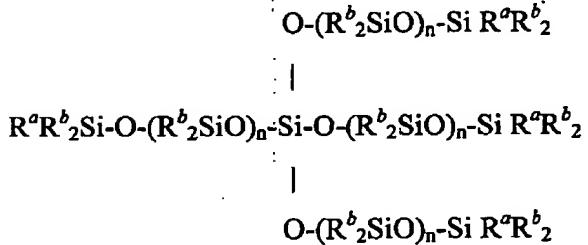
iv) one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of a hydrosilylation inhibitor, a linear alkenyl terminated polydiorganosiloxane, a bath life extender, a silicone release modifier, an adhesion promoter one or more fillers, one or more reactive diluents, and anchorage additives.

22. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula $(SiO_{4/2})$ and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an

alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor, a second pack comprising a silicone release modifier and hydrosilylation inhibitor, a third pack comprising a hydrosilylation catalyst in a sufficient amount to catalyse the reaction between the branched siloxane and a cross-linking agent and a fourth pack comprising the organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent in an amount such that the ratio of the total number of Si-H groups in the composition to aliphatically unsaturated hydrocarbon groups in the composition is from 0.9:1 to 3:1.

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23. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 22 comprising a first pack comprising the branched siloxane and catalyst, a second pack comprising the release modifier and the catalyst and a third pack comprising the cross-linking agent and inhibitor.

24. (New) A release coating composition comprising
i) a branched siloxane siloxane having the general formula



where each n is independently from 1 to 100, each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl

group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group;

ii) an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent in an amount such that the ratio of the total number of Si-H groups in the composition to aliphatically unsaturated hydrocarbon groups in the composition is from 0.9:1 to 3:1;

iii) a sufficient amount of a hydrosilylation catalyst effective to catalyse the reaction between the branched siloxane and the cross-linking agent; and optionally

iv) one or more constituents selected from the group consisting of a hydrosilylation inhibitor, a linear alkenyl terminated polydiorganosiloxane, a bath life extender, a silicone release modifier, an adhesion promoter one or more fillers, one or more reactive diluents, and anchorage additives.

Please amend claims 6, 9-15 and 19 as follows:

6. (Amended Once) An article having on at least one surface thereof a layer containing a cured silicone release composition according to claim 21.

9. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 wherein at least 50% of R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

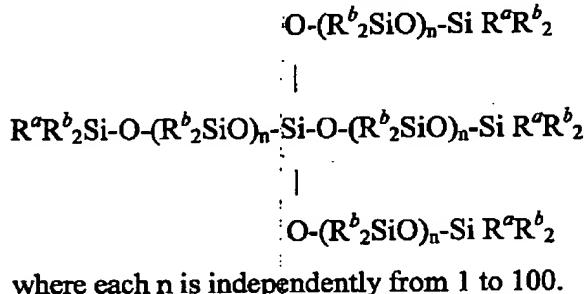
10. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 wherein each R^a substituent is an alkenyl group.

11. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 wherein the alkenyl groups are selected from vinyl and hexenyl groups.

12. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 wherein each R^b substituent is an alkyl group selected from methyl and ethyl.

13. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 where the branched siloxane contains at least two polydiorganosiloxane chains of the formula $(R^b_2SiO_{22})_n$ where each n is independently from 2 to 100.

14. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 where the branched siloxane has the general formula



15. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to claim 21 having from 20 to 250 siloxane units.

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19. (Amended Once) A release coating composition according to Claim 21 where the branched siloxane has from 20 to 250 siloxane units.

Remarks

Claims 6, 9-15, 19, 21-24 are now in this case. Claims 2, 3, 4, and 7 were canceled and claims 21 to 24 were added. The Examiner withdrew claims 1, 5, 8, 16 to 18, and 20.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 6, 7, 9 to 13, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over EP 0400 614, Ward et al or WO 98/05723 as interpreted by Bohin et al. The Examiner also objected to claims 3, 4, and 14 as being "dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim."